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The President's Daily Brief

May 10, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

May 10, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

US diplomats at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe suggest that heads of government from most of the participating states will attend to sign a final agreement. Unless there is major progress soon, however, the final stage may not get under way until fall. (Page 1)

After a two-day lull on the Golan front, Israeli planes yesterday attacked targets in the Mount Hermon area and fedayeen concentrations in southern Lebanon. (Page 2)

Those in Spain who oppose Franco's tight control are drawing encouragement from events in Portugal. Spanish officials, however, are disturbed and see further reason to proceed cautiously with the liberalization program. (Page 3)

The Vietnamese Communists reportedly have accepted a French offer to raise the level of the Viet Cong representation in Paris from information office to diplomatic mission. (Page 4)

Pilots of two US helicopters reported tracer fire from North Korea yesterday while flying a routine reconnaissance mission south of the demilitarized zone. One helicopter was damaged but landed safely. (Page 5)

Malaysia and China plan to announce establishment of diplomatic relations this month. (Page 5)

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CSCE

The US delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe believes that heads of government from most of the participating countries will attend the third phase of the conference to sign a final agreement. Because the participants are divided on the question of the level of representation, and because this issue must be decided by consensus, the most likely agreement will be to allow each country to determine its own level.

At present, most West European governments doubt that the achievements of the conference will warrant a concluding session at the summit level. If leaders of the Warsaw Pact and the nonaligned nations decide to attend, however, West European leaders would find it hard not to go too.

The Soviets still have not made major concessions on free movement of people and ideas, however, and West European delegations are now more pessimistic than ever that the conference can be concluded quickly. If the West continues to hold out for these concessions, some time in the fall--perhaps October--would appear the earliest possible time for the final session.

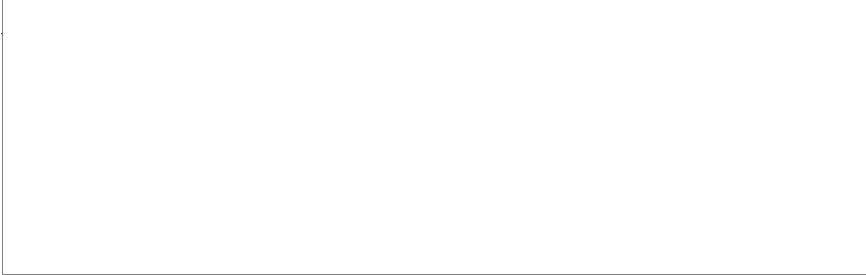
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ISRAEL-SYRIA

Israeli aircraft flew combat missions yesterday after a two-day lull, attacking targets in the Mount Hermon area and fedayeen concentrations in southern Lebanon. The strikes were apparently intended to prevent the Syrians from completing a road to the top of the mountain, and to keep the fedayeen from attacking Israeli supply convoys. Both sides flew defensive patrols and exchanged sporadic artillery and mortar fire.

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SPAIN-PORTUGAL

Those in Spain who oppose Franco's tight control are drawing encouragement from events in Portugal. These same events have greatly disturbed conservative Spanish officials, who now see further reason to proceed cautiously with Premier Arias' liberalization program.

These different viewpoints have been aired in public speeches and in the Spanish media. Initial press coverage of General Spinola's takeover was uniformly favorable. Some Spanish newsmen are still stressing the junta's intention to democratize Portugal, presumably in the hope that desired inferences will be drawn in Spain. Others, however, have begun to focus on the danger that events in Portugal may get out of control because of the increasing influence of the left.

The debate in Spain is likely to grow more intense. Yesterday, Spanish police routed thousands of Madrid University students who were demonstrating their enthusiasm for the new regime in Lisbon. Spanish conservatives are sure to point to such disorders to drive home the dangers of a sudden relaxation of controls.

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FRANCE-VIETNAM

The Vietnamese Communists reportedly agreed late last month to a long-standing French offer to raise the level of Viet Cong representation in Paris from an information office to a diplomatic mission with some immunities and privileges. This arrangement falls far short of the Communists' original demand for embassy status and for relations matching those France has with Saigon.

The Communists apparently have decided they need something they can represent as a diplomatic victory, however small. They can be expected to hail the move as a sign of the enhanced international status of the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

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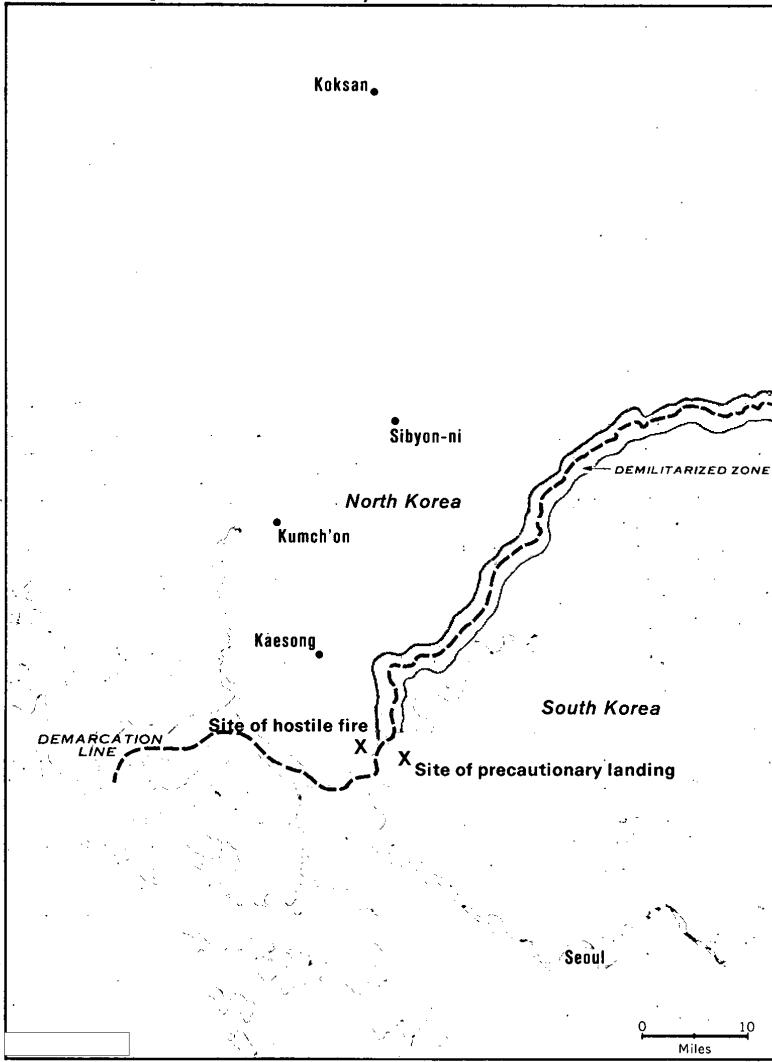
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[redacted] The French, however, are not likely to grant full status any time soon.

The agreement will probably not be announced until after the French election on May 19. The deal is likely to go through no matter who wins the election.

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U S Helicopters Harassed by Fire



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NOTES

Korea: Two pilots of two US helicopters reported tracer fire from North Korea early yesterday morning while flying a routine reconnaissance mission south of the demilitarized zone. One helicopter sustained minor damage and made a precautionary landing. Preliminary reporting indicates that the helicopters were over South Korean territory when fired upon and that they never violated North Korean airspace. Pyongyang claimed last night that the South Koreans had sent a helicopter on an espionage mission over North Korean territory near the Imjin River estuary, where it drew fire from ground forces. The incident is certain to draw countercharges from Seoul, but neither side is likely to take any additional action.

Malaysia-China: Following long negotiations at the UN, Malaysia and China plan to issue a joint communique announcing mutual diplomatic recognition later this month. Malaysia will be the only member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to have established diplomatic relations with Peking. Other members are not likely to follow this lead soon. Indonesia and Singapore have strong reservations about ties with Peking; the new civilian leadership in Thailand is following a measured pace in resuming a dialogue with the Chinese; and the Philippines, despite President Marcos' interest, is in no hurry to move ahead.

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